

AMENDMENTSIn the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 4, 9, 13, and 16-24 as shown herein.

Claims 1-25 are pending and are listed following:

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1. (currently amended) An automated warranty fulfillment system for a consumable item that is consumed during operation of a device, the system comprising:

10 an interface configured to facilitate communication between the consumable item and the device;

a memory disposed on the consumable item, the memory configured to store warranty information corresponding to the consumable item, and store consumable use data corresponding to installation of the consumable item in the device and use of the consumable item during operation of the device; and

15 computer executable instructions configured to request additional warranty information from a user who initiates a warranty claim for the consumable item and receive the warranty information from the user, and the computer executable instructions further configured to obtain the warranty information and the consumable use data to complete warranty requirements to substantiate a warranty claim for the consumable item.

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2. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable item includes an image forming consumable.

25 3. (previously presented) The system of claim 2 further comprising additional computer executable instructions configured to generate an image of the warranty requirements when completed.

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising[[:] a processor disposed on the consumable item, the processor configured to execute the computer executable instructions, and wherein the 5 computer executable instructions are communicated to the device via the interface.

5. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein a user of the device can interact with the automated warranty fulfillment system using 10 a host system connected to the device.

6. (original) The system of claim 5 wherein said host system comprises a general purpose computer.

15 7. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising additional computer executable instructions configured to communicate the warranty requirements to a warranty issuer over a data network.

20 8. (original) The system of claim 7 wherein said data network comprises the Internet.

9. (currently amended) A method for automating warranty fulfillment for a consumable item that is consumed during operation of a device, the method comprising:

5 monitoring use of the consumable item during operation of the device; storing consumable use data on a memory disposed on the consumable item;

obtaining warranty information stored on the memory;

obtaining the consumable use data stored on the memory;

10 prompting a user of the device for user-provided information corresponding to the consumable item when the user initiates a warranty claim; and

15 completing warranty requirements with the warranty information, the consumable use data, and the user-provided information to submit the warranty claim for the consumable item.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein prompting the user includes displaying a user interface through which the user-provided information corresponding to the consumable item can be obtained.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising printing a warranty form when completing the warranty requirements, the warranty form including the warranty information, the consumable use data, and the user-provided information.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising electronically communicating said warranty requirements to a warranty issuer when the warranty requirements are completed.

5 13. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising performing a diagnostic test of the consumable item to determine a ~~warranty related problem corresponding to whether the consumable item is defective.~~

10 14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 further comprising comparing diagnostic test information with the warranty information to determine applicability of the warranty claim for the consumable item.

15 15. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising storing the warranty information, the consumable use data, and the user-provided information in an external memory such that the warranty requirements can be completed when the consumable item is inoperable.

20 16. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising[[::]] executing warranty fulfillment software stored on a memory that is disposed on a replacement ~~consumable~~: consumable, the warranty fulfillment software being executed to complete the warranty requirements with the warranty information, the consumable use data, and the user-provided information stored in the external memory.

17. (currently amended) A consumable item for a device comprising:

means for storing warranty terms on the consumable item;

means for obtaining post-installation information when the consumable 5 item is installed in the device;

means for storing the post-installation information on the consumable item;

means for interacting with a user to obtain user-provided warranty information corresponding to the consumable item when the user initiates a 10 warranty claim; and

means for completing warranty fulfillment information for the consumable item from at least one of:

the warranty terms;

the post-installation information; and or

15 the user-provided warranty information.

18. (currently amended) The consumable of claim 17 further comprising[:] means for interfacing said consumable item with said device.

20 19. (currently amended) The consumable of claim 17 further comprising[:] means for communicating with a host system operated by said user.

25 20. (currently amended) The consumable of claim 17 further comprising[:] means for forming an image of said completed warranty fulfillment information.

21. (currently amended) The consumable of claim 17 further comprising[:] means for communicating said completed warranty fulfillment information to a warranty issuer.

5 22. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising additional computer executable instructions configured to generate a user interface for display through which ~~user provided~~ the additional warranty information corresponding to the consumable item can be obtained to further complete the warranty requirements.

10 23. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising additional computer executable instructions configured to perform diagnostic testing of the consumable item to determine ~~a warranty related problem corresponding to whether~~ the consumable item is defective.

15 24. (currently amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising additional computer executable instructions configured to perform diagnostic testing of the consumable item to determine ~~a warranty related problem corresponding to whether~~ the consumable item is defective, the
20 additional computer executable instructions further configured to compare diagnostic test information with the warranty information to determine applicability of the warranty claim for the consumable item.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a second memory external to the consumable item and configured to store the warranty information and the consumable use data such that the warranty requirements can be completed when the consumable item is
5 inoperable.